

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Letters to the Editor

How Long Will It Last?

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

As a resident of the Volstead act zone, I am reminded of the many queries put to me by Europeans of other countries I visited "across the pond" last summer.

"The first question the average European asks an American visitor about prohibition is, 'How long will it last?' Needless to say, this piece of freak legislation has made this country, whose liberal form of government was once envied by the people of all Europe, the laughing stock of the entire world. And as soon as the majority of patriotic home-loving Americans become aware of this fact the bootleggers will all be looking for a new job.

"The end of Volsteadism is near and I would suggest that some of the supporters of the act read the article on page 2, column 4 of the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER of June 17, wherein United States Senator A. O. Stanley, of Kentucky, is quoted as saying: 'Volsteadism is a failure. It has inverted the whole system upon which, for a thousand years, the structure of Anglo-Saxon liberty has been based.'

"The 'L. I.' writing in the column of the 'People's Forum' who claims to be a bootlegger, and also admits that every one does not possess such a keen, deep intellect as himself, speaks of the bootlegger regions of Philadelphia. Probably he can point out to the public regions in Philadelphia or elsewhere where bootleggers do not ply their trade.

"Quite enough has been said concerning the widespread traffic in liquor, and if records of sales were available figures would show that as much, probably more, spirits are being consumed by the American public today than before the enactment of the present 'dry' law. No longer do those who use stimulants hide themselves to the basements or attics of their homes to indulge in forbidden fruit. Youngsters, as well as old-timers, may be seen in alleys and doorways indulging in a swig of home-made hooch, or from a puff of 'skit' which is probably a whole day's pay, and the only revenue derived by any one from the sale is the enormous profit realized by the maker and vendor. Uncle Sam is deprived of a legitimate tax, the bootlegger gets fifty cents for a pint, there is an unlimited supply on the market and in the end the public is forced to pay millions yearly for maintenance of prohibition forces who fail miserably to prohibit either the sale or manufacture of rum. 'How long will it last?'

I fear this letter would never be seen in print should I endeavor to express my candid opinion of the writers to the Forum who claim they are fewer drunks nowadays, and who say they are unable to see an increase in the number of crimes, violent deaths from alcoholic poisoning, murders and accidents due to intoxicated drivers, to say nothing of the rapid increase in drug traffic. 'How long will it last?'

JOE EMERLING.

Philadelphia, June 19, 1922.

The Muscle Shoals Project

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

In the effort to the effect that President Harding opposed congressional action at this session on the Muscle Shoals development plan was promptly negated last week by a 'White House' announcement. According to this semi-official deliverance, the President not only is 'willing and anxious for House leaders to act on the Muscle Shoals with neither a free hand,' but realizes 'the great possibilities for the national good that might result by exploitation of the Alabama properties, irrespective of the employment might take.' It is explained that Mr. Harding has taken no position 'in opposition or support' of the Ford project.

Thus the statement is admirably

calculated to disarm any resentment provoked by the earlier report among the advocates of the Ford plan—without displeasing the proponents of other development schemes. 'That President's attitude, though it may embarrass the House leaders, who seemed disposed to stave off action on Muscle Shoals at this session, has the ring of sound political strategy.'

Should the House pass a bill accepting the Detroit's contract intact or with modifications, the Senate might be persuaded to carry it over. The Senate, however, has the ring of sound political strategy.

N. L. TRAYNE.

Washington, D. C., June 17, 1922.

Ciphers May Be Superfluous

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I read a statement to the effect that a scenario writer says he was reformed in San Francisco of \$1400. Unless the two ciphers were added by mistake it is not only to believe he could have been a real scenario writer.

Philadelphia, June 17, 1922.

Is It Hot Enough for You?

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Last winter everybody was wishing for the good old summer time. Now the summer is with us and all we hear on all sides is 'Ain't it hot!' I start out in the morning under the influence of coffee and toast serene and contented. Before I have gotten downtown forty-seven people have told me how hot it is; women, fanning and gasping hysterically; advertisements for 'Kool-Aid' start appearing at one from the newspapers and the super minds of journalism commenting editorially on the 'disappearing of wait-coats,' paragraphs alternating quite freely with comments on the weather—everybody all 'hot up.'

By the time I get to my alleged work I am burning up and have a ripped as far as possible. But for the continual reminders of the heat I would have been free to think about my business with a modicum of time left for solving national and international questions. As it is I can think of it as low hot it is.

June, July, August and September have always been hot. I have no reason for believing that the present and approaching summer is any hotter than the others. It will be otherwise than hot. Hot Dog! Hot Towel! Hot towel!

"HOT STUFF."

Philadelphia, June 16, 1922.

Knowledge an Open Book

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—"What the world needs is need, therefore, is a Society for the Better Education of Mature and Elderly Citizens." I am a member of this society.

There is an aggressive, progressive and powerful society for the purpose mentioned in the above lines. I refer to "the grand army of educators" of which, I am a happy and proud member. I am an earnest member. Reduced to workable terms, this spells: All knowledge is an open book to those who want to learn.

He who patiently, persistently and thoughtfully reads the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER will, ere long, know all that is worth while.

The newspaper is the world's greatest achievement.

DIR. GLASGOW.

Bristol, Pa., June 16, 1922.

Ware Song of the Siren

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—"A rival in meanness to the man who would 'grab candy from a baby' is the person who will take advantage of the man or woman out of work by using that person's eagerness for employment to take away his or her money on the false promise of a position. There is no more meretricious task to be performed than that of assisting the needy to find 'jobs,' and an employment agency, operated with strict regard for truth and honesty and with consideration for the position of those who must have recourse to such an enterprise, is frequently a real blessing. The difficulty, ever, is to prevent the unscrupulous from banking capital of the hopes that well so persistently in the human breast and to delude the hopeful with promises, or even with

The People's Forum will appear daily in the Evening Public Ledger, and also in the Sunday Public Ledger. Letters discussing timely topics will be printed, as well as requested poems, and questions of general interest will be answered.

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half-promises, when there are no serious grounds for such confidence. It is the temptation to such deception that ever has kept the authorities busy running down the illegal employment promoter and has caused a good many governments to take over and operate, strictly as a government function, the employment service. Our own Nation, through the Department of Labor, has taken some action along that line, but has not moved very far yet. It has not sufficiently covered the field to banish the possibility of crookedness by giving to the position seeker a safe, sure and free service that will leave no temptation to dishonesty and no break in the promise-maker—and breaker!

We have laws covering fraud in such matters and a strict enforcement will help, pending the time when the Government will take over the task of co-operation for employer and employee as an exclusive civic duty.

ONE OF THE DECEIVED.

Philadelphia, June 17, 1922.

Muscle and Musicians

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Scientific journal says many fish have musical sounds. Well, isn't it a fact that many a fisherman is a lyre? So there you are.

IZAAK.

Camden, N. J., June 17, 1922.

Questions Answered

Manual Training School Teacher

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Where must I apply for a position in a manual training school as teacher? Where should I apply for a position as a forest ranger or a position with the Government in the open?

Please give me the address of J. D. Rockefeller and his son, J. D., Jr.

A. READER.

Rosborough, Philadelphia, June 17, 1922.

Sir—John Christopher, chief examiner of the Board of Education, whose headquarters are at the Grant School, Seventeenth and Pine streets.

The home of John D. Rockefeller is in the Forest Service (W. R. Greeley, forester and chief, 219 Elm street, Chevy Chase, Md.).

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John D. Rockefeller, Jr., lives at 10 Fifty-fourth street, New York City, and his office is at 20 Broadway, New York.

Harry Lauder as a Miner

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Having read the People's Forum every day, as well as the Sunday Public Ledger, I wonder if mother is thinking of me. One is called 'The Italian Girl,' and the other is 'Picture Eighty-four.'

CONSTANT READER.

Philadelphia, June 18, 1922.

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